P.S. 2d — Leave a line by Friday at 32 Washington street & the bearer of this, Mr. W. Leavens, will bring it to me — O. A. B. —

Rev. Amos A. Phelps
Boston, Mass.
(To be left at No. 32. Washington Street)
(Per Mr. W. Leavens)

P.S. As I have actually taken 2 sheets, I will fill up the space left by a few more statements & inquiries. Mr. Pillsbury, (the young man before referred to, &, as I expect, about to be an Agent of the State Society here) spent most of the last year, or at least some part of it, at the Theological Seminary, Andover. He thinks that the _main_ influence of that Seminary goes against the cause of the slave. Its influence over the students while there is great, & great after they leave & become settled over parishes, & of course that its influence is felt over the whole State strongly against the good of the slave — causing a great many of the ministers to withhold themselves from the Anti-Slavery cause, if they do not openly oppose it. Furthermore, he seems to think that the New organization is got up to accommodate these _half-way-abolition_ ministers, who are in fact no abolitionists at all — or at least of no benefit to the cause. On all these accounts & with these views of Andover &c, Mr. P. is, I think, (& it is so with others) falling in too much with Garrison's views of the ministry, & though he does not throw away the institution, or idea, of the ministry, yet he thinks, _as_ it is filled up & characterized at the present, it is pretty near, if not quite, a _curse_ ~~to~~ to society & the land. I think that he & others greatly mistake on this point. I know that many of the ministry come far, very _far_, short of their duty; & that some indeed dishonor their holy calling; _but_ after all _take away the ministry from the land_, & what would become of the Anti-Slavery cause? Verily I believe it would _wane & die_! — Now will you tell me a little about Andover — & the great body of the ministers in Mass & whether the New organization does in fact bring in any _half-way_ men — or whether your Society really _wish_ any such men to join it — any indeed but sound & _whole-hearted_ abolitionists!

Yours for the slave,

R. S. Putnam

little difficulty in determining how he shall be *our* agent, without *implying*, or actually effecting, a *secession* from the present State Society. If we employ such an agent without forming a New Society, it will have virtually the effect of a real Division; & besides, his support will be left it at loose ends; that is to say- there would be no organized body responsible for it. Then it would seem as if the question of employing an Agent for the purpose & in the manner proposed, does in fact amount to the solemn question, whether there shall be ~~in fact~~ a New organization with us? I am not prepared to answer this question without consultation with the friends of the cause. I do not, however, feel satisfied with the present state of the cause in New Hampshire. I really wish to see less of *man-worship*, & more solid, sober, *sanctified* substantial & unadulterated *Anti-Slavery*; such anti-slavery as God approves, & will bless to the overthrow of oppression & tyranny through the land.

I have made the above suggestions, because the matter is a most important one; & Br. St. Clair, also, said in his letter to me— "We as a Com. should be unwilling *to do* any thing *which should have so much as the appearance* of *an attack* upon your State Society, or *its organ*." You will make such suggestions in return, I trust, as you may think the good of the cause demands; &, so far as I am concerned, I am ready to do what lies in my power, to aid & urge forward the glorious work to its entire consummation.

I have written *four times* as much as I expected when I began; but who can scarcely set any limits to his thoughts when he begins to write in behalf of the slave & oppressed humanity? Excuse my freedom, & consider me,

Yours for the Slave,
Rufus A. Putnam

MS.A.21.10.97

Lectures; I for my part have no objections to the circulation of the Abolitionist. Still it may be well to examine the matter in all its bearings before any decisive step should be taken. Such a movement might give alarm to the Herald & its particular friends, & lead to controversy & division. Besides I do hope that another year the Herald will be in different hands & exert a better & stronger influence for the slave. A right kind of a paper is very important to meet the cause & its exigencies in this State. There are things in this State, which, I hope in mercy to the honor of mankind, do not exist in other States. O the rank & mean servility here of men in power, & of men *seeking power*! It is almost enough, considering the quarter from which it comes, to nauseate Slavery itself! When friend Rogers gets hold of this matter, he handles it about right, & puts on the blows in fine style. But how I wander. In regard to making direct efforts to circulate the Abolitionist in this State, I am not prepared to say what would be best, without consulting the views of my brethren; which I intend to do. In the mean time I should be happy to receive suggestions on the subject from you; to know more distinctly your views, & the measures best adapted to accomplish them.

2. As to the *support* of an Agent. Probably you would expect us in whole, or in part to support him. Br. St. Clair says in his letter — "If you have a man, he should be *your* Agent, & be understood to be so." Now here 2 or 3 queries arise. To what, or whom, does the term "*your*" refer? To the N.H. State Society? If so, — it is doubtful whether they would employ an Agent with the understanding that he was in favour of the New organization, & to do what he could to get subscribers for the Abolitionist. The Herald is not free from debt, & is on the hands of the State Society. &c. — But probably the term "*your*" refers to those *individuals* in this State who favour your New Society. If so, there seems to be a